
ARENA RAMBLINGS

Number 1

Welcome back to "AR" headquarters. How do you like that, I change the name but get to keep the initials. Before getting started I'd like to thank all of you for the great letters of understanding and support I got on folding Arena Report. To say the least, it was overwhelming. I hope to partly fill your void with this 2 page report. One page just wouldn't be enough to fill my writing craving. They will all be 2 pages and not 1. Tons of stuff going on so let's start it off with a show that Chris Qualmann, Tony Aragona, and myself attended in Tampa at the Sundome under the banner of the WWF on Friday, February 5th. 1) Tatanka samoan dropped Damien Demento in 11:44. We were brutal with, "Hey Tatanka, where's your wife tonight?" (See the news section if you don't get it.) I wonder how much Jay Strongbow had to do with Chavis's war dance. Has it down pat except for the kneelifts. ** 2) Kamala big splashed Kim Chee in 3:08. Slick was with the Ugandan but luckily no sermon. Dud 3) Predator beat Frankie Lancaster in 7:32 with a lariat off the top rope. Predator is Mike Bollea the nephew of Hogan if you didn't know. He use to wrestle for FMW in Japan as Horace Boulder. He looked at us in shock as we chanted, "Onita, Onita." Strange. Me and Tony had just watched an FMW barbed wire bout with this guy and now he's working with Lancaster and he stunk. Dud 4) Yokozuna defeated Randy Savage in 3:24. Unbelievable how huge Zuna is. He's got huge cellulite lumps in his thighs which made Tony comment, "What are those, rocks in his trunks?" Very well booked match. Yoko missed a corner charge and went down to themat. Randy hit a top rope elbow. Zuna kicked out. Savage went for another but Fuji hit him with the cane and Yokozuna hit a tremendous belly to belly for the win. Afterwards they gave Randy a comeback as he knocked the huge man out of the ring. ** 5) Bob Backlund over Shawn Michaels via count out in 18:52. You have to feel sorry for Backlund. There were fans in the front row yelling "You suck" right in his face. There were some decent near falls but the execution by Bob was bad. Michaels simply left the ring to get counted out. Backlund chased him and brought him back, atomic dropped him and then counted the pin himself. To his credit, Backlund turned the fans in his corner once the bout was a few minutes old. * $\frac{1}{2}$ 6) Steiner Brothers over The Beverly Brothers in 9:43. Steiners got the biggest pop of the night. Can't wait to see the results of Scott's first drug test with Titan. Scott gave Enos the Frankensteiner. ** $\frac{1}{4}$ 7) Typhoon splashed Skinner in 10:21. The less said the better. -** 8) Mr. Perfect perfectplexed Razor Ramone in 5:42. Ramon went back first into the exposed turnbuckle and Hennig nailed the perfect plex. Afterward, Hall destroyed Curt with chairs and left him laying. Not a good bout at all and too short. * NOTES: Crowd was around 3,000 which has been the norm for the area in the last year or so. They return to the area on 3/19 with a card in Lakeland. Nothing announced. They also have a date in Daytona Beach on 3/20 which is in the height of Spring Break. Do you think the thing college kids want to do on Spring Break is go to a wrestling card? I know I probably would but how many nuts do you think are out there?....

OTHER NEWS: Another shake up has hit the WCW offices. Bill Watts has been demoted and Sharon Sidello has been named executive V.P. of Operations. Sidello was formerly president of marketing. Apparently Bob Dhue is not happy with the way things have been going with the TV ratings and buy rates of PPVs. He went to Watts and Jim Ross and asked what the problem was. Surprisingly, they blamed each other. Instead of firing Watts, they demoted him figuring he will resign since he stated a long time ago he wanted total control over the product. I don't see Bill staying long at all. Ross took a big hit as well. He has been pulled off all of TV except for World Wide. Besides that he'll be in charge of selling TV to syndication. Tony Schiavone will take over WCW Saturday Night while the announcer who seems to get the biggest push will be Eric Bischoff. Did I hear a loud groan out there. I have a big

problem with this. I felt other than the huge undeserved push of Erik Watts, Bill Watts was starting to hit his stride. The TV the last four weeks has been tremendous. With Cornette, the Bodies, Davey Boy, and the hopefully return of Flair, things would be cooking once again. I would have given him at least until Super Brawl to see what happened there. The reason Sidello got the job is that she is simply a Turner employee and not related to the wrestling business at all. Dhue is looking for a TV producer with no experience in wrestling to run the TV product. Apparently a committee is in place until they find that person. Dusty Rhodes from what I understand still wields a lot of power in decision making with Watts.....Believe it or not, even though Flair has signed his contract with WCW, the deal is still up in the air because as of this past Friday, Vince hadn't signed his release papers yet. Could Vince go against his word once again? I think this will be settled by 2/21 or is Vince purposefully trying to screw the appearance of Flair up at Super Brawl?.....Now for some inside dirt. I don't know why none of the newsletters have explained Jannetty's "unprofessional conduct" that got him fired from the WWF. Ray Stevans found him asleep five minutes before his PPV bout with Michaels. His sleep from all accounts was induced by alcohol. Apparently Michaels was in the same condition which may be why their match didn't live up to expectations.....There is definatly some big time heat with Jerry Lawler by some of the WWFers. While Lawler was in the ring for the Rumble I don't know how to say this except, someone took a dump in his gym bag. Good bett on the Nasties being the guilty party.....The reason Paul Diamond was fired a few weeks back was due to Tatanka catching him with his wife. Chavis went to Vince and demanded Diamond be fired. Since Chavis is being pushed heavy, Vince agrred but then came back and in a bargaining agreement, told Chavis they were bringing Diamond back but they would give the I-C title to Tatanka. And he believed him? Speaking of Tatanka, to those of you who I talked to after the TV tapings and told Tatanka won the title from Shawn in San JOse, it was erroneous. The person who called can't be faulted either since they made no mention that the bout was non-title. That match airs this weekend on Superstars.....In a dead give away on Monday Night Raw last week, Hulk Hogan will return at Wrestlemania teaming with Brutus Beefcake vs. Money, Inc. It's a good spot to put Hogan in as he won't take away from the co-main event. Kind of a spot they would have put Bruno in. Sort of like the legend returning. I'm pretty sure he'll only make big time show appearances from this point forward.....This past Sunday (2/7) in the Omni saw Steve Regal beat Tex Slazenger *, Wrecking Crew over Marcus Bagwell & Joey Maggs * $\frac{1}{2}$, Too Cold Scorpio beat Scotty Flamingo * $\frac{1}{2}$, Chris Benoit beat Z-Man **, Vinnie Vegas topped Johnny Gunn who was accompnied by Van Hammer who did some mic work and almost got booed out of the building Dud, Paul Orndorff pinned Cactus Jack ** $\frac{3}{4}$, Van Vader beat Sting via DQ *** $\frac{1}{4}$, Steamboat, Rhodes, and Douglas over Windham, Austin, & Pillman in an elimination bout as Steamboat reversed a flying bodypress by Austin. *** $\frac{1}{2}$. They return 3/28 with Rude vs. Davey Boy announced. (Thanks to Steve Prazak).....WWF in Boston drew approx4,000 on 2/6 as Santana beat Skinner $\frac{3}{4}$ *, Brunzell over Predator $\frac{1}{2}$ *, Taylor over Powers * $\frac{1}{4}$, Tatanka beat Demoento **, Ramon over Perfect by count out (reports had Hennig hurting his knee in this one but not sure how bad) * $\frac{1}{2}$, Steiners over Beverlys *, Kamala beat Kim Chee $\frac{1}{2}$ *, Yokozuna over Savage * $\frac{1}{4}$, Backlund beat Michaels ***. Hilarious line had Michaels tell some 85 year old lady who was in his face, actually over house mic, "I refuse to wrestle until Mrs. Backlund sits down. They return 3/21 with Ramon & Luger vs. Perfect & Hart, Doink-Tatanka, Steiners-Money, INC. non title, and Lawler-Santana. (Thanks to Ted Field)....Hope you enjoyed the first go around in this new venture. There is a number on your envelope telling you how many envelopes you have remaining. All self addressed stamped envelopes can be sent to me at P.O. Box 952547, Lake Mary, FL 32795 or 916 Sloewood Ct, Lake Mary, FL 32746.In closing I'd like to say I for one will never forget Andre the Giant. I have many fond memories of Andre pre-heel days. And to all of you I say dont' let his post face days ruin those memories. Rest in peace big man.

See ya gang, Ron